#### Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. | 20554 |
|-------------|------|-------|
|-------------|------|-------|

| Washington                                          | RECEIVED & INSPECTED |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| MM Docke                                            | DEC 1 3 2004         |                         |
| In re                                               | )                    | FCC - MAILROOM          |
| Amendment of Section 73.202 (b) Table of Allotments | ) RM-<br>)           |                         |
| FM Broadcast Stations (Dundee and Odessa, NY)       | ) )CC                | CKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL |

To: The Chief, Allocations Branch

#### PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

FINGER LAKES RADIO GROUP, INC. ("petitioner"), by its counsel, pursuant to Section 1.401 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, respectfully requests the Commission to institute a rulemaking proceeding to amend the FM Table of Allotments as follows:

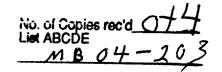
#### Channel No.

| City       | Present | Proposed |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Dundee, NY | 240A*   |          |
| Odessa, NY |         | 238A     |

<sup>\*</sup> present frequency would change based on BPH-20040317AAL currently before the commission.

#### Proposal of the Petitioner

1. The petitioner is the licensee of FM broadcast station WFLR-FM, Dundee, NY (Facility ID 36406). It desires to change its community of license to Odessa, NY, and to modify its channel assignment. This proposal advances the purposes of Section 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, as demonstrated herein. This will be a



first transmission service for Odessa, NY. Dundee will continue to receive service from fulltime AM station WFLR, which is also licensed to Petitioner.

- 2. Odessa is located in Schuyler County in upstate New York approximately 18 miles southeast of Dundee, the existing community of license (Dundee is in the adjacent County of Yates). Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's Rules provides:
  - (i) In the course of the rulemaking proceeding to amend §73.202(b) or §73.606(b), the Commission may modify the license or permit of an FM or television broadcast station to specify a new community of license where the amended allotment would be mutually exclusive with the licensee's or permittee's present assignment.

Since the primary contour of the proposed Odessa station overlaps the primary contour of the existing station, Section 1.420(i) applies, and the WFLR-FM license may be modified in accordance with this rule without the opportunity for any other applicant to apply.

Please note that the station can be licensed to Odessa with the identical facilities to those proposed in BPH-20040317AAL (other than channel) and provide the necessary city grade coverage to Odessa. See attached Engineering Exhibit (Exhibit 1).

4. The petitioner is a duly organized corporation comprised solely of United States citizens. If the requested petition is acted upon favorably, petitioner will apply for the authorization to move WFLR-FM to Odessa.

#### Comparison of Communities

5. Odessa is a community listed in the 2000 Census with a population of 617.

The community is a village with a mayor and a five-member village board of trustees.

Village Offices are located at 300 E. Main St., Odessa with offices for the Mayor, Village Clerk, Village Court, and Village Trustees. Odessa has its own Public Works

Department; its own post office and zip code; its own schools system with an elementary

school (Hanlon Elementary) and a junior/senior high school (Odessa-Montour Junior

Senior High School). Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a compilation of demographic data

respecting the communities (Dundee has a population of 1,690). This data illustrates the

fact that Odessa is a substantial community, deserving of its own transmission service.

6. There are no commercial broadcast facilities licensed to Odessa. The

reallotment proposed herein would provide a first local aural transmission service to a

community that is not presently served. Dundee would continue to have a local aural

transmission service by way of co-owned station WFLR. Accordingly, the proposed

rulemaking would be in accord with Section 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934,

as amended. Further, Odessa is not in an urbanized area, and the station will continue to

provide coverage to Dundee, factors which demonstrate that the proposed move is in

accord with Commission precedent. Georgetown and Garden City, South Carolina,

Report and Order, released September 5, 1997, DA-97-1887, at para. 4.

WHEREFORE THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, it is respectfully requested that

the Commission initiate a rulemaking proceeding as proposed hereinabove.

By

Respectfully submitted,

Law Offices

JAMES L. OYSTER

108 Oyster Lane

Castleton, Virginia 22716-2839

(540) 937-4800

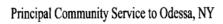
Date: December 10, 2004

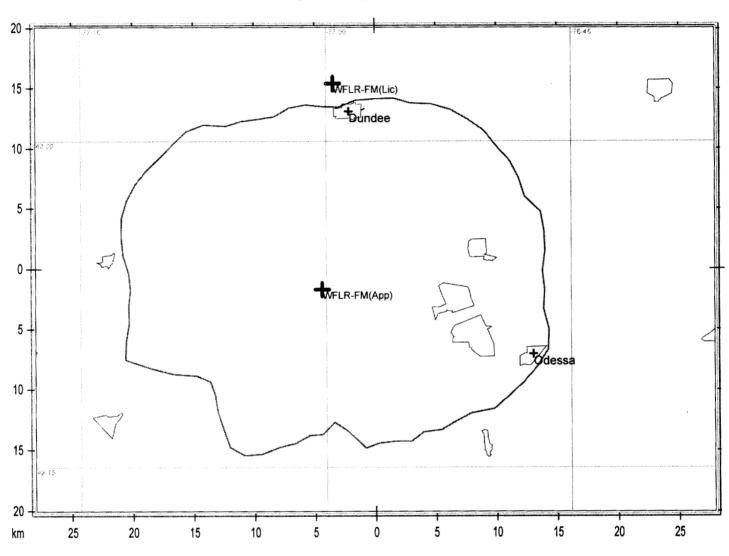
FINGER LAKES RADIO GROUP, INC.

James L. Oyster

3

# EXHIBIT 1 ENGINEERING STATEMENT





WFLR F(50,50) 70 dbu Contour (BPH-20040317AAL)

State Borders City Borders Lat/Lon Grid

# EXHIBIT 2 DEMOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



### U.S. Census Bureau

#### American FactFinder

FACT SHEET

#### Odessa village, New York

| Highlights from the Census 2000 Demographic Profiles: |        |             |         |     |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|-----|-------|
| General Characteristics - show more >>                | Number | Percent     | U.S.    |     |       |
| Total population                                      | 617    | 100.0       | 100%    | map | brief |
| Male                                                  | 287    | 46.5        | 49.1%   | map | brief |
| Female                                                | 330    | 53.5        | 50.9%   | map | brief |
| Median age (years)                                    | 37.1   | (X)         | 35.3    | map | brief |
| Under 5 years                                         | 34     | <b>5</b> .5 | 6.8%    | map |       |
| 18 years and over                                     | 458    | 74.2        | 74.3%   |     |       |
| 65 years and over                                     | 80     | 13.0        | 12.4%   | map | brief |
| One race                                              | 612    | 99.2        | 97.6%   |     | D     |
| White                                                 | 596    |             |         |     | brief |
|                                                       |        | 96.6        | 75.1%   | map |       |
| Black or African American                             | 5      | 0.8         | 12.3%   | map | brief |
| American Indian and Alaska Native                     | 1      | 0.2         | 0.9%    | map | brief |
| Asian                                                 | 0      | 0.0         | 3.6%    | map | brief |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander            | 0      | 0.0         | 0.1%    | map | brief |
| Some other race                                       | 10     | 1.6         | 5.5%    | map |       |
| Two or more races                                     | 5      | 0.8         | 2.4%    | map | brief |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race)                      | 9      | 1.5         | 12.5%   | map | brief |
| Average household size                                | 2.46   | (X)         | 2.59    | map | brief |
| Average family size                                   | 3.04   | (X)         | 3.14    | map |       |
| Total housing units                                   | 261    | 100.0       | 100.0%  | map |       |
| Occupied housing units                                | 246    | 94.3        | 91.0%   | map | brief |
| Owner-occupied housing units                          | 170    | 69.1        | 66.2%   | man | Diloi |
| Renter-occupied housing units                         | 76     | 30.9        | 33.8%   | map | brief |
| Vacant housing units                                  | 15     | 5.7         | 9.0%    | map | Dilei |
| Vacant nousing units                                  | 13     | 5.1         | 3.076   | map |       |
| Social Characteristics - show more >>                 | Number | Percent     | U.S.    |     |       |
| Population 25 years and over                          | 407    | 100.0       |         |     |       |
| High school graduate or higher                        | 337    | 82.8        | 80.4%   | map | brief |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                           | 85     | 20.9        | 24.4%   | map |       |
| Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and   | 61     | 13.5        | 12.7%   | man | briof |
| over)                                                 | 01     | 13.5        | 12.770  | map | brief |
| Disability status (population 21 to 64 years)         | 87     | 25.5        | 19.2%   | map | brief |
| Foreign born                                          | 0      | 0.0         | 11.1%   | map | brief |
| Now married (population 15 years and over)            | 280    | 57.0        | 54.4%   | •   | brief |
| Speak a language other than English at home (5        | 40     | 4.0         |         |     |       |
| years and over)                                       | 10     | 1.8         | 17.9%   | map | brief |
| Economic Characteristics - show more >>               | Number | Percent     | u.s.    |     |       |
| In labor force (population 16 years and over)         | 311    | 65.1        | 63.9%   |     | brief |
| Mean travel time to work in minutes (population 16    |        |             |         |     | Dilei |
| years and over)                                       | 25.0   | (X)         | 25.5    | map | brief |
| Median household income (dollars)                     | 41,250 | (X)         | 41,994  | man |       |
|                                                       |        |             |         | map |       |
| Median family income (dollars)                        | 51,429 | (X)         | 50,046  | map |       |
| Per capita income (dollars)                           | 18,639 | (X)         | 21,587  | map |       |
| Families below poverty level                          | 15     | 8.8         | 9.2%    | map | brief |
| Individuals below poverty level                       | 53     | 8.9         | 12.4%   | map |       |
| Housing Characteristics - show more >>                | Number | Percent     | U.S.    |     |       |
| Single-family owner-occupied homes                    | 144    | 100.0       |         |     | brief |
| Median value (dollars)                                | 68,400 | (X)         | 119,600 | map | brief |
| Median of selected monthly owner costs                | (X)    | (X)         | ,       | map | brief |
| With a mortgage                                       | 840    | (X)         | 1,088   | map | 51161 |
| Not mortgaged                                         | 314    | (X)         | 295     | map |       |
| 3 3 4                                                 | 017    | (^)         | 290     |     |       |

#### Dundee village, New York

Highlights from the Census 2000 Demographic Profiles:

| General Characteristics - show more >>  Total population           | <b>Number</b><br>1,690 | Percent<br>100.0 | <b>U.S.</b><br>100% | map | brief |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----|-------|
| Male                                                               | 791                    | 46.8             | 49.1%               | map | brie  |
| Female                                                             | 899                    | 53.2             | 50.9%               | map | brie  |
| Median age (years)                                                 | 38.0                   | (X)              | 35.3                | map | brie  |
| Under 5 years                                                      | 116                    | 6.9              | 6.8%                | map |       |
| 18 years and over                                                  | 1,223                  | 72.4             | 74.3%               |     |       |
| 65 years and over                                                  | 290                    | 17.2             | 12.4%               | map | brie  |
| One race                                                           | 1,682                  | 99.5             | 97.6%               | •   |       |
| White                                                              | 1,658                  | 98.1             | 75.1%               | map | brie  |
| Black or African American                                          | 17                     | 1.0              | 12.3%               | map | brie  |
| American Indian and Alaska Native                                  | 2                      | 0.1              | 0.9%                | map | brie  |
| Asian                                                              | 2                      | 0.1              | 3.6%                | map | brie  |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander                         | ō                      | 0.0              | 0.1%                | map | brie  |
| Some other race                                                    | 3                      | 0.2              | 5.5%                | map | 2.70  |
| Two or more races                                                  | 8                      | 0.5              | 2.4%                | map | brie  |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race)                                   | 11                     | 0.7              | 12.5%               | map | brie  |
| Average household size                                             | 2.45                   | (X)              | 2.59                | map | brie  |
| Average family size                                                | 3.07                   | (X)              | 3.14                | map | 2116  |
| Total housing units                                                | 728                    | 100.0            | 100.0%              | map |       |
| Occupied housing units                                             | 661                    | 90.8             | 91.0%               | шар | brie  |
| Owner-occupied housing units                                       | 379                    | 57.3             | 66.2%               | map | Dile  |
| Renter-occupied housing units                                      | 282                    | 42.7             | 33.8%               | map | brie  |
| Vacant housing units                                               | 67                     | 9.2              | 9.0%                | map | Dile  |
| Social Characteristics - show more >> Population 25 years and over | Number<br>1,065        | Percent<br>100.0 | u.s.                |     |       |
| High school graduate or higher                                     | 871                    | 81.8             | 80.4%               | map | brie  |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                                        | 92                     | 8.6              | 24.4%               | map | 2     |
| Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and                |                        |                  |                     |     |       |
| over)                                                              | 233                    | 19.6             | 12.7%               | map | brie  |
| Disability status (population 21 to 64 years)                      | 264                    | 30.0             | 19.2%               | map | brie  |
| Foreign born                                                       | 20                     | 1.2              | 11.1%               | map | brie  |
| Now married (population 15 years and over)                         | 523                    | 40.7             | 54.4%               |     | brie  |
| Speak a language other than English at home (5 years and over)     | 47                     | 3.0              | 17.9%               | map | brie  |
| Economic Characteristics - show more >>                            | Number                 | Percent          | U.S.                |     |       |
| In labor force (population 16 years and over)                      | 734                    | 57.6             | 63.9%               |     | brie  |
| Mean travel time to work in minutes (population 16                 |                        |                  |                     |     |       |
| years and over)                                                    | 18.4                   | (X)              | 25.5                | map | brie  |
| Median household income (dollars)                                  | 26,034                 | (X)              | 41,994              | map |       |
| Median family income (dollars)                                     | 32,446                 | (X)              | 50,046              | map |       |
| Per capita income (dollars)                                        | 14,858                 | (X)              | 21,587              | map |       |
| Families below poverty level                                       | 62                     | 15.8             | 9.2%                | map | brie  |
| Individuals below poverty level                                    | 285                    | 17.0             | 12.4%               | map |       |
| lousing Characteristics - show more >>                             | Number                 | Percent          | U.S.                |     |       |
| Single-family owner-occupied homes                                 | 313                    | 100.0            | 0.5.                |     | brie  |
| Median value (dollars)                                             | 58,200                 | (X)              | 119,600             | map | brie  |
| Median of selected monthly owner costs                             | 36,200<br>(X)          | (X)              | 113,000             | map | brie  |
|                                                                    | 796                    |                  | 1,088               | man | אווכ  |
| With a mortgage Not mortgaged                                      | 796<br>344             | (X)<br>(X)       | 295                 | map |       |
|                                                                    | .344                   | (7.)             | Z95                 |     |       |
| X) Not applicable.                                                 | 041                    | (* */            |                     |     |       |

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION - SCHUYER COUNTY TOWNS**

#### **CATHARINE**

106 Grant Rd. Odessa, NY 14869 Phone 594-2273 - FAX 594-2274 Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Wednesday 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Supervisor Glenn Bleiler 5461 State Route 224 Alpine, NY 14869

BOARD MEETING - 8:00 pm - 3rd Tuesday of each month January - 2nd Tuesday, November after election

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#### **CAYUTA**

P.O. Box 85, Cayuta, NY 14824 Phone 594-2507 - FAX 594-2507 Office hours Monday and Thursday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon Tuesday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Supervisor
David M. Reed
6371 Morrell Road
Cayuta, NY 14824

796-9558

BOARD MEETING - 7:00 pm - 2nd Wednesday of each month

Town Hall, Route 224, Cayuta

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#### DIX

304 7th Street, Watkins Glen 14891 Phone 535-9125 - FAX 535-2590 Office hours Tuesday 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm Wednesday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Thursday 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm

Supervisor Frank Ganung (R) 1641 County Route #18 Montour Falls 14865 535-9344

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 pm - 2nd Monday of each month

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#### **HECTOR**

5097 NYS Route 227, Burdett 14818 Phone 546-5286 - Fax: 546-5200 Office hours Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Supervisor
Benjamin Dickens (R)
5097 Route 227
Burdett 14818
546-5286

BOARD MEETING - 7:00 pm - 2nd Tuesday of each month

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#### **MONTOUR**

P.O. Box 579 Montour Falls 14865 Phone 535-9476; FAX - 535-8897 Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Wednesday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Supervisor Kenneth Dillion (R) Mills Road Montour Falls 14865 535-9476

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 pm - 2nd Tuesday of each month Town Hall, Havana Glen Park, Montour Falls

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#### **ORANGE**

899 Hornby Road, Beaver Dams 14812 Phone 962-2978 - FAX 962-1003 Office hours Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Saturday 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Supervisor Cedric Stewart 955 County Route 16 Beaver Dams 14812 936-6646

BOARD MEETING - 7:00 pm - 1st Monday of each month Town Hall, Monterey

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#### READING

**P.O. Box 5 Reading Center 14876 Phone 535-7459** 

Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Saturday 10:00 am - 12:00 noon (January only) Wednesday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (after 1/31)

Supervisor C. LaMont Stamp (R) 4025 Route 14 Rock Stream 14878 535-2842

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 pm - 2nd Wednesday of each month Town Hall, Route 14A, Reading Center

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#### **TYRONE**

596 CR#23 Dundee 14837 Phone 292-3181 Office hours Monday, Friday, Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Supervisor Philip L. Davis (R) 4090 Shorewood Drive Hammondsport 14840 583-2137

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 pm - 2nd Tuesday of each month Tyrone Town Hall, Weston

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#### GENERAL INFORMATION - SCHUYER COUNTY VILLAGES

#### **BURDETT**

3830 Main Street, PO Box 234, Burdett 14818 Phone 546-2266 Fax 546-4466 Office hours First and Third Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon Tuesdays 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Mayor Dale Walter P.O. Box 788 Burdett 14818 546-4549

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 pm - 2nd and 4th Monday of each month Village Hall, Willow Street, Burdett

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#### **MONTOUR FALLS**

408 West Main Street, PO Box 812, Montour Falls 14865 Phone 535-7367 - FAX 535-7076 Office hours Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Mayor Dianna Overhiser 415 E. Main Street Montour Falls, NY 14865 535-6020 BOARD MEETING - 7:00 pm - 1st and 3rd Monday of each month Village Hall, Main Street, Montour Falls

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#### **ODESSA**

300 E. Main Street, Odessa Phone 594-2100 FAX 594-4282 Office hours Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mayor Robert Carpenter PO Box 103 Odessa 14869 Phone: 594-2100

BOARD MEETING - 7:30 pm - 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

Municipal Building, Main Street, Odessa

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#### **WATKINS GLEN**

303 N. Franklin St., Watkins Glen Phone 535-2736 FAX 535-7621 Office hours: Monday thru Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm

Mayor Robert H. Lee (D) 303 N. Franklin Street Watkins Glen 14891 535-2736

BOARD MEETING - 7:00 pm - 1st and 3rd Monday of each month Municipal Building, Franklin Street, Watkins Glen

## **Odessa Officials, Offices**

#### **Village Board Members**

**Pictured below, from left:** Mayor Robert Carpenter, and Village Board trustees Rob Ketchum, Mike Baker, Peggy Tomassi and Rita Decker.



Mayor: Robert Carpenter

Trustees: Rita Decker, Mike Baker, Rob Ketchum, Peggy Tomassi

Village Clerk: Sandra A. Cevette, 300 E. Main St., Odessa, 594-2100

**Department of Public Works:** Dick Palmer, 594-2533

Municipal Building: 300 E. Main St., Odessa, 594-3792

Dutton S. Peterson Memorial Library: 106 First St., Odessa, 5942791

## History



# Low ad rates for this site!

## The tantalizing postcard

We get about 7,500 visits a week, a nice advertisement audience. Check out our advertising rates.

Government

Schools

People

Business

**Features** 

History

Sports

Forum

Calendar

Home

We also have a

ODESSA, June 8 -- Postcards can be such tantalizing teases.

Village mayor Bob Carpenter recently unveiled one (at right) that has entered the possession of Odessa, joining other bits of history embodied in old ledgers, letters, photos, and other memorabilia collected by village historians over the years.

But while some of the memorabilia throws light on the past, this item leaves more questions than answers.

The card is postmarked, but you can't read the date. The "ESS" of Odessa is visible on the back, but not the rest.

The front promotes Odessa, and has a small photo glued on that shows the old Mill Street bridge, snapped roughly from the rear of the bank on Main Street. There is a house in the background -- on the hill running up to what is now Parmenter's Tires -- that was torn down a few years



#### Business Card Page. ago. Click .

So we know roughly the where, but not the when.

And beyond that is the note on the back. The card is addressed to Mr. John Chapel, Branchport, RFD and contains these words:

"Thursday evening. Yours received last night. I am painting pictures now days ... will write a letter later. Saw two foxes Sunday P.M. in the field in front of our house."

Then there is mention of a Mr. Walters, and something about a marriage, but it is difficult to decipher.

It is signed "From a lonesome girl."

The frustrating part of such items is the unlikely chance of ever finding out the rest. For example:

Who is or was John Chaapel? How long ago was this written and mailed? Who is our mystery writer? Where -- presumably in or near Odessa -- did she live? Did she walk from her home to the old Odessa Post Office on Main Street to mail the card -- or ride in some distance by horse and buggy ... or by old automobile? Why was she lonesome, and what was John Chaapel to her? Friend? Cousin? Lover?

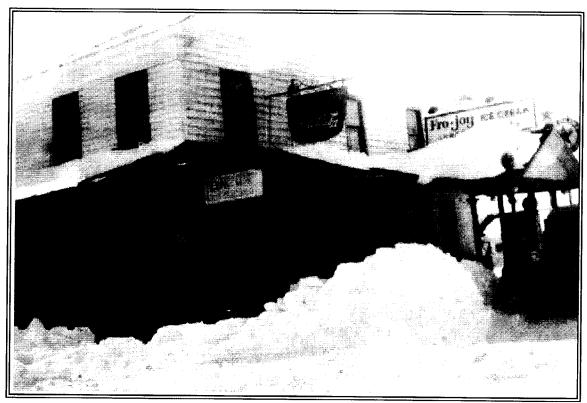
And where did the postcard come from? Was there a local manufacturer of such delights? Did the postcard purchaser get to affix a photo of choice onto the front (for there is no mention on front or back of the pictured scene)? What was the reference to a marriage?

Did Lonesome Girl and John Chaapel ever get together? Was the postcard from a past just distant enough that they still exist -- or co-exist -- as elder statespersons? Or are they long gone?

And what of her pictures? Was she an artist of note? Has any of her work survived? And if so, where?

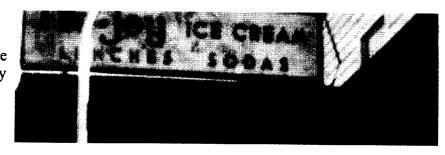
We could go on in this vein, I suspect, asking question after question ... and in absence of fact we could even supply our own manufactured answers.

But we will let it rest ... in the shadow of yesteryear -- unless any of our readers can shed some light on it..



The Sweet Shop ... and Vernie

The two photos here were provided to this website by the Village of Odessa -- after they were passed along to the village by area residents.



The photo above shows the Sweet Shop run by Vernie Williams at the corner of Church and Main Streets in Odessa. The time is uncertain, though the car in the photo is believed to be a 1938 Dodge.

Vernie Williams is the subject of a story elsewhere on this website -- relating to the badge he wore as constable starting back around 1930 (see <u>Badge</u>). He also ran the popular Sweet Shop, where Cokes and Fro-joy Ice Cream were available, among other items. (The building later was The Odessa House bar, and most recently has served as an antique shop.)

The gas pump in the picture was on the Main Street side of the building, where a concrete slab exists now between sidewalk and exterior wall.

The photo above right shows Vernie standing on the right in 1944 alongside Jack Davis, who was home on leave from the Navy. The photo was provided to the village by Davis, who now resides in Horseheads and Florida.

Davis is well-known for his career at the Odessa-Montour Central School, where he was a coach, physical education instructor and Athletic Director until his retirement almost 20 years ago. A gym in the facility is named in honor of him.

| <u>Scen</u> | ne from | າ the ເ | past |  |  |
|-------------|---------|---------|------|--|--|
|             |         |         |      |  |  |
|             |         |         |      |  |  |
|             |         |         |      |  |  |
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|             |         |         |      |  |  |
|             |         |         |      |  |  |
|             |         |         |      |  |  |



ODESSA, Aug. 12 -- The photo above and the one below are from the same photo, taken on July 4, 1910 in downtown Odessa with a panoramic lens. The men kneeling in the foreground are listed on the back of the photo. From left, they are, from left: Warren Lyon, Duane Brown, Joel Couch, Charles Hotchkiss, B.K. Bronson, Will Maloney. Ralph Stanley, Howard Mickle, Ira Stanley, Dean Mitchell, Orval Newton, Horton Charles, Lewis Catlin, Proff.Goodnuff, Lee Owlett, Thomas Maloney, Doctor Jackson, John D. Peetingill, and Lewis Ervay. This is from the Village of Odessa historical collection.

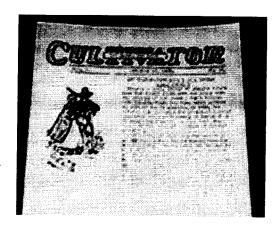


## Old 'Cultivators' give peek at the past

#### By Charlie Haeffner

One of the side benefits of planning a centennial celebration -- such as Odessa is doing -- is the discovery of interesting artifacts along the way.

For instance, Mayor Robert Carpenter unearthed several items recently that he passed along to the committee planning the July 4-6 celebration -- a group led by former Mayor Betsy Austin.



Carpenter came up with a 1930s era phone directory for Odessa -- still in nice shape -- along with several photos, including a group shot with dozens of people in it taken at Seneca Lake when he was a child. He can't find himself in the photo, but his mother is there, and a sibling or two.

"And that," he said, pointing to a gentleman on the left, "is Vernie Williams."

Williams ran a sweet shop in the Odessa House. His home was just down the block -- a structure that has housed the writer of this article and his family for more than 20 years.

But perhaps most fun was a collection of mimeographed sheets that Carpenter found -- issues of *Cultivator*, a newspaper of sorts produced in 1935 and 1936. The paper was subtitled "The Odessa Community." Each issue ran eight to 10 pages, with each page roughly 7 by 8 inches.

The editor or editors are not listed anywhere, but in one front-page article -urging correspondents to "get your notices, anecdotes, jokes or whatever you
care to have printed, in to the staff ON TIME!" -- four names are listed as people
to "hand article to": D.S. Peterson, Ray Stevens, Charles Harrington and Wayne
Willis

Peterson, of course, is memorialized through the local Dutton S. Peterson Library. He was a local Methodist minister, then a state assemblyman, and finally a state senator. Harrington was a longtime mayor of the community.

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A large part of the fun in looking through such publications is the ads. In *Cultivator*, many were handprinted and hand-drawn before being mimeographed, giving the whole enterprise a more personal feel.

The Methodist Churches of Odessa, Catharine, and Alpine -- with Peterson as the minister -- take up the better part of a page in each issue. Meeting times, speakers at church-related functions, news of parishioners and the like dominate that space.

Not to be outdone, the Baptist Churches of Odessa and Cayuta take up as much room or more, with roughly the same kind of subject matter.

St. John's Episcopal Church settled for a smaller ad -- about a quarter of a page.

Regular business ads can be found for Pure Honey at Wilcox's, Shell Service at Fowler's Garage, The Horton Funeral Chapel, Cotton & Hanlon (for such things as electric washers and refrigerators), the J.T. Prince Jr. Cash Store, The Farmer's Store, Washburn's Hardware Store (in what is now the D&B Hobby Shop), Williams' Confectionary (also simply known as Vernie's), Odessa Coal Yards, Tawasi Beauty Shop, The Market Basket (in the eastern end of the old Post Office Building), Odessa National Bank, and Odessa Mills ("Quality Feed at a Reasonable Price").

There are regular sports reports --soccer, softball, baseball -- and small meeting notices, personal-event items, jokes and quotes.

Here's one joke, from July 18, 1936: "Little Audrey and her father were on top of the Empire State Building. Her father lost his balance and fell off. But Little Audrey laughed and laughed because she knew that he had on his light fall suit."

And this article in the Oct. 10, 1936 issue could almost have been pulled from today's government:

"The Village Board under the direction of Mayor Carpenter has been studying the various village ordinances with the object of revising many of the older ones to make them fit today's circumstances. They are also preparing new ordinances to meet conditions which need correction."

The Mayor Carpenter referred to was A.F. Carpenter, father of our current mayor, Robert Carpenter.

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This "For Sale" item in the same issue is an eye-catcher: "3-drawer, square-top, oak desk and chair -- in good condition. \$10. Mrs. Milo Hitchcock."

As is this personal note: "Will the person who borrowed my extension ladder please return it for a short time, as I find that I have a little job or two for which I find need for said ladder. Thanks. Bert Ganoung."

And for those into the names of the past, there's this notice of the local Class of 1937's selection of officers for the senior year: Eleanor Hausaman as president, Anna McGuire as vice president, and Patricia Conrad as secretary-treasurer.

The year before, on Oct. 19, 1935, this article appears under "Believe It Or Not": "Last Sunday, Harvey Couch found it necessary to break the ice for his roosters to drink. After attendiing to this, he went to the garden and picked a nice lot of berries." That appears right above an ad for "Insurance. Harvey Couch. Odessa."

In the same issue, Dutton S. Peterson's name pops up again: "Pomona Grange at Searsburg Saturday, Oct. 19th. Dutton S. Peterson speaks. Mr. Peterson addressed Tompkins Co. WCTU last week, speaks at E.L. Group meeting Monday evening, at Elmira Lake St. Presbyterian Church Thursday evening --- Men's Banquet."

#### And there is this verse:

"A Hallowe'en party
Thursday at eight -In the Baptist Church
Now, don't be late -Wear goopy clothes
As a quaint disguise,
For the best costume
We offer a prize.
There'll be eats and stunts
And lots of fun,
We're expecting you all
So EVERYONE come."

In the April 18, 1936 issue, the school honor roll is printed. One familiar name in Grade 6: a Robert Carpenter had a 90 average. Another pupil, Hubert MacDowell, was close behind with an 87.

The same issue carried a village budget synopsis. The budget total was \$2,791.

The good old days indeed.

## Other Scenes from the past

For a look at some early 20th century photos of downtown Odessa and other nearby locales, try the website <a href="http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyschuyl/phalbum.htm">http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyschuyl/phalbum.htm</a>.

## Looking for historical accounts

We're seeking historical accounts of Schuyler County on this page -- both an overview of the area's settlement and development, and side stories related to the county's past that are informative and entertaining.

Any historians out there are welcome to try their hand at such efforts -- either through fresh writing or through previous essays or stories you might have composed and would like to see in electronic print for awhile.



Some of what appears here will

remain for an extended period, while some will take turns with newer entries. I've included a photo of the fairly recent past — the demolition one clear day a couple of years ago of the R House 2 building on Main Street in Odessa, a building with a rich history. In fact, anyone with details of that structure's long existence could tackle that as a subject.

In addition to the writing, this would be a good place for photos of historical interest. Anyone with old photos of Odessa, Montour Falls and Watkins Glen are welcome to lend them to this website for possible publication, or scan them and send them by e-mail.

## **Features**



## Peterson Library offers series of classes

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ODESSA, April 26 -- The Dutton S. Peterson Memorial Library, 106 First St., is offering a series of free classes starting in May that will teach participants how to make old-time crafts that they can then take home with them.

The series, titled "A Taste of Heritage Arts," is being funded by the Arts of the Southern Finger Lakes. The classes, taught by professionals, are geared toward beginners. Preregistration is required, and class sizes are limited.

#### The courses:

^^^ "Quilting" by Doris Navestad, from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 22. For ages 8 and up. Teaches the basics of hand quilting and foundation piecing.

^^^ "Wool 101" by Karey Solomon, from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 19. For ages 10 and up. Teaches the sheep to shawl procedure, and how to felt and knit.

^^^ "Basketmaking" by Pat Wood, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 14. For teens and adults. Teaches the history of basketmaking and how to make one.

^^^ "From Block Printing to Rubber Stamps" by Karen Hansen, from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 25. For ages 10 and up. Teaches the art of block printing and stamping, and how to make a quilt-designed stamp.

^^^ "Magical Clay Creatures" by Deb Youngling, from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Oct. 11. For ages 5 to 10. Teaches children how to create a clay figure that will be fired and returned later.